

3.12 RECREATION

This section describes existing recreational facilities at and adjacent to Ames Research Center.

A. On-Site Recreational Facilities

This section describes existing recreational resources at Ames Research Center.

1. Ames Research Center Recreational Facilities

Under the Baseline, there will be approximately 50 hectares (123 acres) of active recreation area in Ames Research Center, of which approximately 45 hectares (112 acres) are in the golf course in the Eastside/Airfield area. The remaining 5 hectares (11 acres) consist of informal recreation areas, playing fields, a swimming pool, and picnic grounds, as well as more natural areas which are used for walking. There are also approximately 170 hectares (425 acres) of undeveloped land in the Bay View and North of Bay View areas, where NASA employees use the roads for recreational purposes. The total area of recreational and open space areas within Ames Research Center is approximately 215 hectares (535 acres).

In addition to parks and open space areas, NASA has developed the Bicycle Commute Trail, a bicycle and pedestrian path that extends from the Stevens Creek Regional Trail to the Wright Avenue Gate (Gate 17) of Ames Research Center.

B. Off-Site Recreational Facilities

This section describes off-site recreational facilities in the vicinity of Ames Research Center.

1. Recreational Areas Near Ames Research Center

As shown on Figure 3.12-1, there are a number of parks and recreational areas near enough to Ames Research Center that they are likely to be used by current and future employees and residents.

a. Berry Court and Orion Park Military Housing Recreational Facilities

Within the Berry Court and Orion Park Military Housing areas, there are a number of recreation areas. These include baseball diamonds and basketball courts, the Youth and Teen Center, and playground facilities scattered throughout the housing areas. There is also a par course facility to the south of the Senior Officer's Quarters, located in the eastern annex.

b. Shoreline at Mountain View

Shoreline at Mountain View is a Regional Recreational and Wildlife area adjacent to San Francisco Bay in Mountain View. Its 280 hectares (700 acres) offer a sanctuary for wildlife and migratory birds, a network of hiking and biking trails, a restored Victorian Home built by Henry Rengstorff in 1867, a championship golf course, a 20-hectare (50-acre) salt water sailing lake, and a meadow area for picnics and play.

c. San Vernon Park

San Vernon Park is a 0.8-hectare (2-acre) park in Mountain View that includes a basketball court, playground, picnic area and an outdoor volleyball court.

d. Stevenson Park

Stevenson Park is a 5-hectare (12-acre) park in Mountain View that includes a basketball court, a playground, a soccer/football field, a picnic area, a softball field and tennis courts.

e. Whisman Park

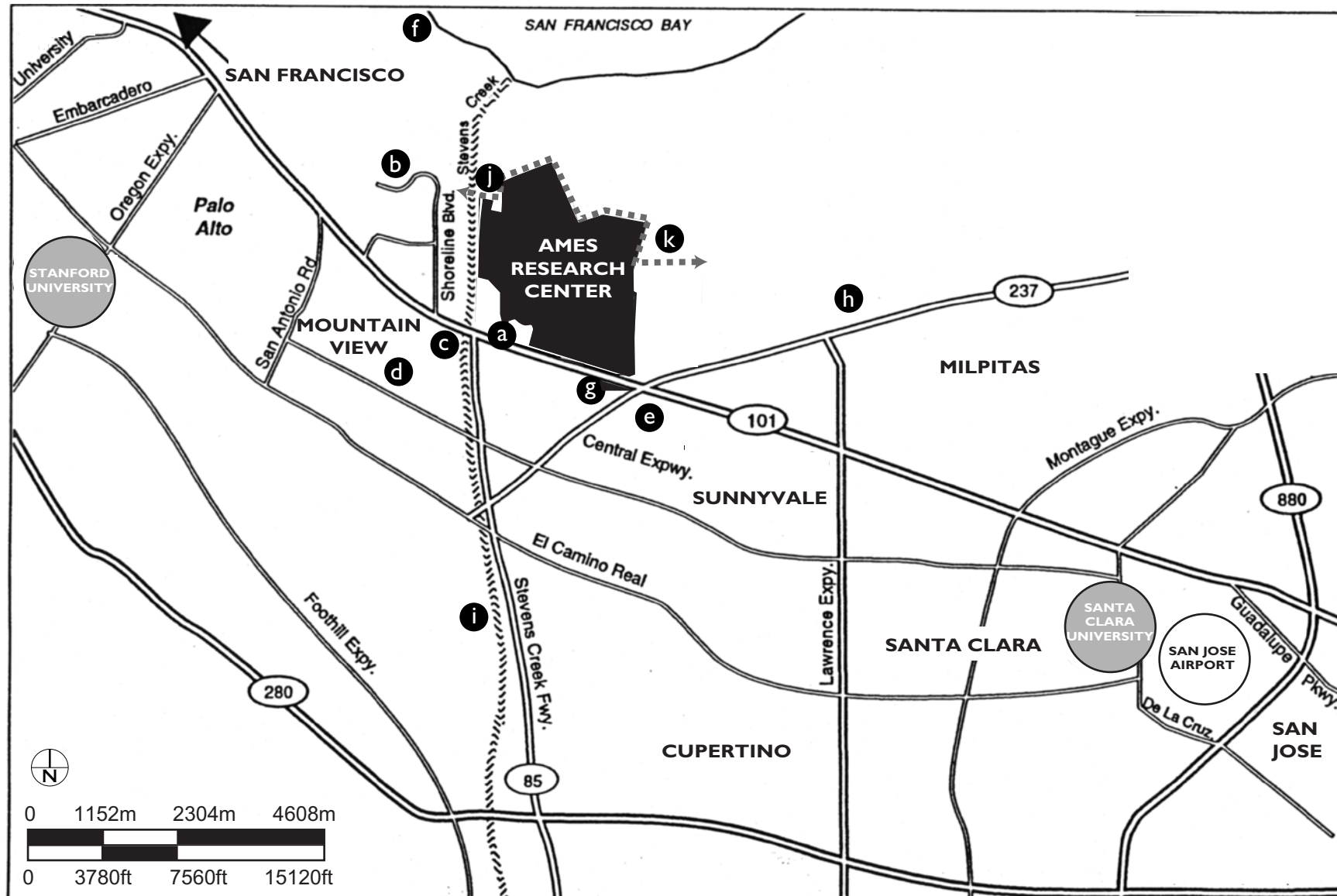
Whisman Park is a 5-hectare (12-acre) park in Mountain View that includes BBQ facilities, a basketball court, playground, a soccer/football field, a softball field, tennis courts, an outdoor volleyball court and trail access.

f. Baylands Preserve

The Baylands Preserve is bounded by Mountain View and East Palo Alto. The 785-hectare (1,940-acre) preserve is the largest tract of undisturbed marshland in the San Francisco Bay. It includes 24 kilometers (15 miles) of multi-use trails.

FIGURE 3.12-1

PARKS IN THE VICINITY



- a. Military Housing
- b. Shoreline At Mountain View
- c. San Veron Park
- d. Stevenson Park
- e. Whisman Park
- f. Baylands Preserve
- g. Sunnyvale Golf Course
- h. Baylands Park
- i. Steven Creek Trail
- j. Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area
- k. Planned Bay Trail

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g. Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course

The Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course is 18 holes and approximately 80 hectares (200 acres) in size, 15 hectares (35 acres) of which is part of Ames Research Center.

h. Baylands Park

Baylands Park is a regional park in Sunnyvale with over 30 hectares (70 acres) of developed parkland including play areas, picnic areas, Baylands Grove Amphitheater and connections to the Bay Trail. There are an additional 40 hectares (105 acres) of season wetlands that are protected as a wetlands preserve.

i. Stevens Creek Trail

Stevens Creek Trail is a heavily-used feeder trail for the Bay Trail. It starts at Landels Park in Mountain View, then follows Stevens Creek all the way to the Bay Trail, in the process running through dense urban neighborhoods and high-tech business parks, and along the western edge of Ames Research Center.

j. Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area

This is a Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) nature preserve. Access to the western edge of the preserve is via a pedestrian bridge from Shoreline Park.

2. The Bay Trail

The Bay Trail is a planned recreational corridor that, when complete, will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 650-kilometer (400-mile) network of bicycling and hiking trails. To date, approximately 340 kilometers (210 miles) of the alignment have been completed. Senate Bill 100, authored by then-state Senator Bill Lockyer and passed into law in 1987, directed the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to develop a plan for this “ring around the Bay,” including a specific alignment for the Bay Trail. The Bay Trail Plan, adopted by ABAG in July 1989, includes a proposed alignment; a set of policies to guide the future selection, design and implementation of routes; and strategies for implementation and financing.

Since the adoption of the Bay Trail Plan, the majority of the jurisdictions along the Bay Trail alignment have passed resolutions in support of the Bay Trail and have incorporated it into their General Plans.

In 1990, the San Francisco Bay Trail Project was created as a nonprofit organization dedicated to planning, promoting and advocating implementation of the Bay Trail. The Bay Trail Project is administered by ABAG and is housed at ABAG's offices in Oakland.

The planned Bay Trail alignment runs through the northern portion and along the northern boundary of Ames Research Center, but has not yet been constructed in this area.

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